

THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1893-1942*

BY HARRY B. WEISS

In an editorial in *Entomological News* for June, 1924, it is stated that "fifty years is a variable quantity. It is the major part of a man's life, an era for a nation, a passing moment in geology. For a magazine it is a ripe and venerable age." So the *JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY* has now reached a "ripe and venerable age."

Be that as it may, our *JOURNAL*, for all its fifty years, is old only in comparison with such of its American contemporaries as the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, each of which is 35 years old, both having started in 1908, and the *Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, which is 19 years old (first appearance in 1924).

In comparison with some existing American entomological periodicals, our *JOURNAL* is much younger. The *Proceedings-Transactions of the American Entomological Society*, formerly the *Entomological Society of Philadelphia*, is in its 75th year, the *Canadian Entomologist*, in its 74th year, *Psyche*, in its 69th year, the *Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society*, in its 65th year, although for a period of 26 years (1886-1911) it was not published, *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington*, in its 59th year, and *Entomological News*, in its 53rd year. Our closest contemporary from the standpoint of age is *Entomological News*, which is our senior by three years.

During the early days of the Society, the *JOURNAL* was started by subscription, Mrs. Annie T. Slosson being the largest contributor. In part it was supported by the proceeds from auction sales of insects, and again Mrs. Slosson was the donor of the largest number of specimens.¹

Through the past fifty years the *JOURNAL* has had six editors. Its first was William Beutenmüller who served eleven years (1893-

* Presented at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Society, Dec. 1, 1942.

¹ Leng, C. W. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, Vol. xxvi, p. 129-133, 1918.

1903). Mr. Beutenmüller was born in Hoboken, N. J., March 31, 1864, and educated in the public and private schools of New York City. From 1888 to 1912 he was curator of the department of entomology of the American Museum of Natural History. In 1900 he was president of the New York Entomological Society, and his continuing interest in entomology is indicated by his membership in 1927 in the Entomological Society of America, the American Association of Economic Entomologists, the Brooklyn Entomological Society and the Entomological Society of Washington. He was interested in the Orthoptera, Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, and published extensively on this latter order, particularly on the Lepidoptera found within 50 miles of New York City. His monographs on Sesiidæ and gall insects are especially noteworthy. His collecting was done in the vicinity of New York City and at Black Mountain in North Carolina. Mr. Beutenmüller married Edna Hyatt, entomological artist, and lived the latter part of his life at Tenafly, N. J. He died February 23, 1934.²

The second editor of the Journal was Dr. Harrison Gray Dyar, who served four years (1904–1907). Dr. Dyar was born on February 14, 1866, at 331 Fifth Avenue, New York City. In 1889 he graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with the degree of B.S. in chemistry. From Columbia University in 1894 he received his A.M., and in 1895 his Ph.D. From 1896 to 1897 he was assistant in bacteriology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Columbia. From 1904 to 1916 he was entomological assistant in the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture and from 1924 to 1929, Captain, Sanitary Department, Organized Reserves, United States Army. His earliest entomological interest was in the Lepidoptera and in 1894 he published on the classification of Lepidopterous larvæ. Through his numerous later writings on this order he became one of the leading authorities in America. His paper on the Lepidoptera of the Harriman Alaska Expedition appeared in 1900 and in 1902 his large work, "A List of North American Lepidoptera and Key to the Literature of this

² Ent. News, Vol. xlv, p. 112, 1934; Amer. Men of Science, 4th ed., New York, 1927.

Order of Insects" was published as Bulletin 52 of the United States National Museum.

He began the study of mosquito larvæ in 1902 and contributed that part to "The Mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies," by Howard, Dyar and Knab, which was published in four volumes in 1912 by the Carnegie Institute of Washington. Hundreds of lepidopterous and dipterous (Culicidæ) insects were described and named by Dr. Dyar, and some flies, with R. C. Shannon. In 1913 he began the publication of "Insecutor, Inscitiæ Menstruus," a periodical devoted to systematic entomology, which ended in 1926 and extended to 14 volumes. From 1897 until his death in the Garfield Hospital, Washington, D. C., January 21, 1929, he was Custodian of Lepidoptera at the United States National Museum. Many of Dr. Dyar's important papers were published by the United States National Museum, JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Canadian Entomologist, etc.³

Professor William Morton Wheeler was the third editor of the JOURNAL, and served from 1908 until the middle of 1912, except for a period in 1910 when Charles Schaeffer edited the December JOURNAL for that year.

Professor Wheeler was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 19, 1865. He was graduated from the German-American College in Milwaukee in 1884 and during the same year, entered the employ of Ward's Natural Science Establishment at Rochester, N. Y., where he arranged zoological material and identified specimens. Leaving Ward's in 1885 he returned to Milwaukee and taught German and physiology at the High School where Dr. G. W. Peckham was principal. After two years he was appointed custodian of the new Milwaukee Public Museum where he remained until 1890, when he was offered a fellowship at Clark University. Two years later he obtained a Ph.D. degree for his thesis entitled "Contribution to Insect Embryology." The following year was spent in Europe.

Upon his return he went to the University of Chicago, first as instructor in embryology, and after 1896 as assistant professor,

³ Essig, E. O. A History of Entomology, New York, 1931.

staying in all five years and becoming, during this period, interested in various phases of entomology.

At the University of Texas in 1899, where he was professor of zoology, he became interested in ants and began a long series of investigations. In the summer of 1903 he was made curator of invertebrate zoology in the American Museum of Natural History and during his five years in this position he published many important papers. In 1908 he was at Harvard University as professor of economic entomology, and from 1915 to 1929 as dean of the Bussey Institution. His monumental work on ants was published in 1910.

In 1929 Professor Wheeler resigned his deanship and moved to Cambridge where he continued his teaching until his retirement in 1934. Three years later, or in 1937, he died at Cambridge, Mass., on April 19.

Many lasting contributions were made by Dr. Wheeler to biological science and to entomology in particular. He was a member of many entomological societies and the recipient of various honorary degrees and medals in recognition of his entomological research. An appreciation of his qualities as a scientist and as a man may be found in "Psyche" for September, 1937, in an account by Dr. Charles T. Brues, which occupies the entire issue, and which contains a long bibliography of Wheeler's papers and books from 1885 to 1937, testifying to his varied interests and accomplishments.

From the middle of 1912 to the end of 1915 the JOURNAL was edited by the "Publication Committee," but I am of the opinion that Mr. Charles Schaeffer really looked after the editing, for the committee, during this period. From 1916 to 1919, Mr. Schaeffer was definitely named as editor, making his entire term of service eight years.

Charles Frederick August Schaeffer was born of German parents in London, England, on July 12, 1860. In 1876 his education was completed in Germany. His entomological career began in 1898, as assistant to William Beutenmüller in the American Museum of Natural History where he remained four years. In 1902 he was employed on the staff of the Brooklyn Institute of

Arts and Sciences, as curator of Coleoptera, remaining here until his death, following a long period of illness, on August 29, 1934.

Mr. Schaeffer's entomological talents became apparent upon his acquaintance with Gustav Beyer, Charles Tuneson and Ottomar Dietz about 1889, and in 1892 when the New York Entomological Society was organized, he was one of its first members.

For thirty-five years, he served the Society in various capacities, on different committees and as recording secretary. His published papers are all taxonomic and during his later years he specialized principally in the Chrycomelidæ.⁴

Mr. Schaeffer was succeeded by Mr. Howard Notman, the fifth editor, who held office from 1920 until March, 1924 when he resigned. Mr. Notman, artist and entomologist, was first introduced to the New York Entomological Society by Mr. Robert Percy Dow, and his interest was in the Coleoptera. Mr. Notman at one time bought a large part of the Hugh Beyer collection but later gave up entomology for the study of music. According to "Who's Who in New York (City and State)," 1929, Mr. Notman was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., April 20, 1881, and graduated from Harvard University in 1903. Later he spent a year in the Harvard Law School. When "Who's Who in New York" was published, in 1929, he was a member of the Royal Society of Arts, Brooklyn Society of Artists, Brooklyn Society of Modern Artists, American Federation of Arts, New York Academy of Sciences, Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of London, and the Brooklyn Entomological Society.

Mr. Notman's revisions and descriptions of new species in the Coleoptera were published largely in the JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, but his work also appeared in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, American Museum Novitates, Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, Bulletin of the New York State College of Forestry and the Proceedings of the United States National Museum. At present Mr. Notman is living on Staten Island.

Upon his resignation in March, 1924, from the editorship of the JOURNAL, Mr. Notman was succeeded by the writer, who, although he has been editor for nearly 19 years, which is a long

⁴ Davis, W. T., JOUR. N. Y. ENT. SOC., Vol. 50, No. 2, p. 209-10, 1942.

time, takes this occasion to deny that he was born in 1833 as given on page 285 of Herbert Osborn's "Fragments of Entomological History" (Columbus, 1937).

The first Publication Committee in 1893, consisted of five members. In succeeding years the size of the committee was confined to four. This first committee was made up of William Beutenmüller, Ottomar Dietz, Charles Palm, Berthold Neumoegen and Harry Allchin.

Ottomar Dietz was born in Bremen, Germany, April 21, 1854, but he received his education in Königsberg to which place his parents had moved. In 1880 he came to America, living first in Milwaukee, then Cincinnati, and finally settling in New York where he was engaged in newspaper advertising. He was well-known as a collector of Coleoptera and was one of the founders of the Society. He was an enthusiastic collector with a large circle of entomological friends. His last collecting trip was in June, 1901, to Brownsville, Texas. In previous years he had collected in Virginia and Florida. He died on December 25, 1901, at his home, 679 East 141st Street, after an illness of only 12 days.⁵

Charles Palm, another founder of the Society and member of the first publication committee, was born at Calbe, on the river Milde, Germany, in 1836. Coming to the United States in 1854, Mr. Palm built up a successful business, following the founding in 1856 of the firm Palm, Fechteler & Co., which was one of the first to introduce the decalcomania industry into this country. Starting from an importing business, it grew into one of the largest manufacturing firms in the United States. As late as 1934 this firm was the only large manufacturer in the East. At that time its office was at 15 East 26th Street, New York City, and its factory at 99 Maple Avenue, Weehawken, N. J.

Mr. Palm was active during the early days of the Society, when he was nearly sixty. For a long time he lived at 172 East 64th Street, New York, where his large collections of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera were housed and where he entertained his entomological friends like Dietz, Luetgens and Merkel. For more than 10 years he served on the executive and publication committees, and was vice-president of the Society for four years and presi-

⁵ Ent. News, Vol. xiii, p. 64, Feb., 1902.

dent in 1897. He resigned in February, 1916, at the age of 80 years when evening meetings became impossible for him. Seven species and genera of Lepidoptera were named in his honor, and his numerous friends included Charles Dury and W. H. Wenzel. Mr. Palm died on November 5, 1917, in his 82nd year.⁶

The last member of the first "Publication Committee," about whom it was possible to find historical material is Berthold Neumoegen, who was born in Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, November 19, 1845. Mr. Neumoegen began to collect Lepidoptera about 1874 and his collection grew to be one of the finest in existence and contained many valuable types described by prominent Lepidopterists. Mr. Neumoegen himself described many new genera and species from this country and the West Indies and published a number of papers on the Bombycidae with H. G. Dyar, many of which appeared in our JOURNAL.

He was a member of the New York Stock Exchange and in business as a banker and broker at 40 Exchange Place, New York City. At one time Mr. Jacob Doll assisted him in taking care of his collection. Mr. Neumoegen was friendly with Dr. Herman Strecker, and spoke five or six languages fluently. He died in New York on January 21, 1895, of consumption hastened by an attack of grip, and it is stated that he looked upon death as a relief.⁷

It has been, thus far, difficult to locate information about Harry Allchin. Aside from the fact that he was a member of the first Publication Committee in 1893, we know that he was a member of the Society from that year until June, 1898, and that is all.

At various times between 1893 and 1942, thirty-four different members of our Society have served upon the Publication Committee, for periods of time ranging from one to many years. This is exclusive of the editors whose services have already been noted.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SERVING ON THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE FROM
1893 TO 1942

(exclusive of editors)

Ottomar Dietz, 1893, 1 year

Harry Allchin, 1893, 1 year

⁶ JOUR. N. Y. ENT. SOC., Vol. 25, p. 237, 1917.

⁷ Ent. News, vol. vi, p. 65-66, Mar., 1895.

- B. Neumoegen, 1893, 1 year
Charles Palm, 1893-94; 01, 3 years
Charles Tunison, 1894, 1 year
L. H. Joutel, 1894-1902, 9 years
E. Daecke, 1894-1897, 4 years
F. Rabe, 1895, 1 year
Charles Schaeffer, 1896-1902; 1904-1915; 1920-1922, 22 years
C. F. Groth, 1898-1899, 2 years
E. G. Love, 1900; 1902; 1905; 1906-1910, 8 years
W. D. Kearfoot, 1903, 1 year
Herman Hug, 1903, 1 year
H. G. Dyar, 1903, 1 year
C. W. Leng, 1904-1906; 1931-1935, 8 years
C. T. Brues, 1904-1905, 2 years
Henry Bird, 1907, 1 year
E. P. Felt, 1908-1910, 3 years
R. C. Osburn, 1910-1912, 3 years
F. E. Lutz, 1910-1922; 1924-1930, 20 years
H. G. Barber, 1913, 1 year
J. D. Sherman, Jr., 1913; 1918-1919; 1923-1940, 21 years
W. P. Comstock, 1914-1920, 7 years
L. B. Woodruff, 1914-1915, 2 years
E. L. Dickerson, 1916-1917; 1921-1923, 5 years
C. E. Olsen, 1923-1935, 13 years
H. Notman, 1924, 1 year
H. T. Spieth, 1936-1937, 2 years
C. H. Curran, 1936; 1938, 2 years
E. L. Bell, 1937-1942, 6 years
William Moore, 1939-1940, 2 years
E. W. Teale, 1941-1942, 2 years
H. F. Schwarz, 1941-1942, 2 years
Mr. Schaeffer was on the Publication Committee for 22 years,
Dr. Lutz for 20, Mr. Sherman for 21, and Mr. Olsen for 13 years.
The terms of the other members range from one to nine years.

Over the past 50 years the size of our JOURNAL has slowly increased. During the first 10 years the average number of pages, per volume, was 228. During the second 10 years, it was 263, during the third, 280, the fourth, 422 and during the fifth

(9 years) period, the average will be in the neighborhood of 434 pages per volume. From 1893 to 1923 the subscription price was \$2.00 per year. In 1924 it was increased to \$3.00, where it has remained ever since.

During the fifty-year period, a total of over 1,400 papers was published, on various entomological subjects, taxonomic, morphological, biological, etc. Dividing this period into five of ten years each, we find that, over the years, there has been a change in the types of papers submitted to the JOURNAL. A rough arrangement of the papers according to the subjects suggested by the titles was made for each ten-year period, with the following result:

SUBJECT MATTER OF PAPERS PUBLISHED FROM 1893 TO 1941

	Vols. I-X 1893-1902	Vols. XI-XX 1903-1912	Vols. XXI-XXX 1913-1922	Vols. XXXI-XL 1923-1932	Vols. XLI-XLIX 1933-1941*
	<i>per cent</i>	<i>per cent</i>	<i>per cent</i>	<i>per cent</i>	<i>per cent</i>
Taxonomic	70	70	73	54	50
Biological	15	16	15	11	13
Faunal lists	5	5	1	1	7
Historical		1	1	12	5
Bibliographical and Bio- graphical			1	7	1
Economic		1	1	2	9
General obituaries, etc. ...	6	4	5	5	4
Morphological, physiolog- ical, etc.	2	2	2	6	7
Behavior	1	1		2	4
Unclassified	1		1		

* 9 years.

During the first thirty years of the JOURNAL about 70 per cent of the papers were taxonomic, about 15 per cent biological, the remaining 15 per cent being made up of papers on morphology, behavior, faunal lists, and general subjects. During the past twenty years, these ratios have changed somewhat. The taxonomic papers over this latter period were about 50 per cent of the total, biological papers about 12 per cent, while the remaining

38 per cent consisted of faunal lists and titles on morphology, behavior, historical, bibliographical, biographical and economic entomology. In other words, the contents for the last twenty years have been more varied than previously. These conclusions are based upon a rough approximation of titles and not upon a close examination of the contents of each paper. In spite of this, it is believed that the conclusions are fairly accurate.

The first paper in Volume 1, Number 1 of the JOURNAL is entitled "Common versus Proper," by Annie Trumbell Slosson, who was elected at the first meeting of the Society on June 29, 1892, and who was one of its most distinguished and helpful members. Other contributors to the first number of the JOURNAL were A. S. Packard, G. W. Angell, Mary Treat, Charles Palm, B. Neumoegen, Harrison G. Dyar, William Beutenmüller and William T. Davis. Later numbers of Volume I contained papers by Nathan Banks, William J. Fox, W. J. Holland, L. H. Joutel, C. W. Leng, R. Ottolengui, C. H. T. Townsend and F. M. Webster. Of these contributors, to the first volume of the JOURNAL, whose names are well known in entomological circles, only 4 remain alive today—William T. Davis, C. H. T. Townsend, Nathan Banks, and W. J. Fox.

In succeeding volumes of the JOURNAL numerous papers will be found by well-known professional and amateur entomologists. In fact the pages of the JOURNAL have always been open to anyone with a contribution to the science of entomology and I do not believe that the prestige of the JOURNAL has suffered by reason of this policy.

It is largely through scientific journals and other publications that science develops and the JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY has for fifty years been a part of the national circulatory system for entomological thought and ideas.